24 tables in season. Citrus fruits flourish in the irrigated areas of Kerbela province and in the Diyala river valley, while grapes, apricots and other fruits grow in various localities. Numerous species of dates are cultivated, especially in the Shatt al Arab and lower Euphrates basins: they represent one of the basic foods of the people.

511 The financial circumstances of most families prohibit the consumption of meat,
233 except at irregular intervals. Sheep and goats are raised in large numbers, both by the settled and the nomadic peoples, and constitute the principal sources of
226 meat. Fish are a valuable food among
231 the peoples living in the river valleys and along the coast. Fowl are kept in the rural
262 villages. Milk is a standard article of diet
334 wherever it is obtainable. The milk of sheep or goats is most widely used, but that of cows, water buffaloes and camels is utilized in many areas. Milk is normally consumed in the form of buttermilk or a soured milk product, known as *leban*. Cheese is also made, but it is rarely as popular as in other Arab countries. Clarified butter and the fats derived from the tail tissues of the local breeds of sheep are important sources of fat among all population groups.

262 The least diversified diets are probably found among the nomadic tribes, who subsist on the products of their herds, supplemented by dates and wheat or barley breads. Camel's milk is employed by the
[234] nomadic Bedouin. The tribal Arabs of the southern marshes depend largely upon the milk of the water buffalo, fish and wild waterfowl, rice and occasional edible rushes.

146 Measures to raise the standards of nutrition among the various urban and rural groups are being studied by educational and
165 health authorities. Improper feeding in in-
853 fancy, particularly in the course of weaning, which is often deferred until the second year of life, is a factor contributing to the
146 high mortality among young children. The
657 organization of a national nutrition committee, to function in an advisory capacity to the governmental agencies concerned, and

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